

Testimony HB 1256 Kathy Frelich

Good Morning Chairman Klemin and House Judiciary Committee,

My name is Kathy Frelich and I am a Representative of District 15. I am also a State Employee.

My purpose in being here is to provide testimony in favor of Bill 1256. In discussing this Bill with Representative Murphy, I realized that this is an issue. It is right that we have policies against sexual harassment and discrimination. I think we can all agree on that. However, we now live in a time where coworkers can make false allegations with the purpose of destroying a reputation and causing someone to lose their livelihood. Many may feel this is a Bill that favors men, but I'm aware of situations where this would have protected women from this kind of attack. As such, this Bill would also protect me. We are all here voting on Bills that our coworkers may disagree with. That is not the problem. We put ourselves willingly into that position. But we should be protected from false retaliation.

Now, as I understand it, perjury is a Class C felony. And if someone makes a false allegation to purposely injure another party, there should be a consequence. Don't get me wrong, if the allegations are found to be true, there needs to be real repercussions, but I worry we have become a society in which the allegation itself can destroy a life, and if the allegation is false and frivolous, it is wrong. There must be a deterrent for those who wish to harm a reputation for their own purposes.

Thank you for listening to my concerns, and I am open to any questions.

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